



Oats under-seeded with red clover near Austin, Minn., in late July 2024

Soil Builders' Network Newsletter



LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

August 2024

Small grains are being harvested and pastures continue to grow during a season that has brought us a lot of rain! The LSP Soil Health program welcomed a new team member in July and there are upcoming soil health events, including an Austin area farmer gathering.

Calling all Austin Area Farmers! On-Farm Social Gathering Thursday, August 22, at 4:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening on the Lightly farm in Oakland, Minn. There will be a potluck, yard games, shop talk, and a chance to walk a sunflower field. This is a great opportunity to join a network of like-minded farmers in the area and to learn more about our Austin Soil Hub. Please bring a dish to share and a chair. Invite your friends and neighbors!

To learn more about this gathering and to register [click here](#).



[RSVP Here!](#)



Welcome Alex Kiminski to the LSP Soil Health Team! Alex joined LSP in July and is based out of our Montevideo, Minn., office. She is supporting both the Land Access and Soil Health teams and will be expanding soil health outreach in western Minnesota.

Alex grew up part-time in rural Wisconsin working in many different aspects of the food industry and then moved to Montana to learn more about farming. She has recently moved back to the Upper Midwest to begin this next stage of work melding some of her favorite things: people, earth, farms, and food.

Want to get in touch with Alex? E-mail her at akiminski@landstewardshipproject.org.

Soil Health Resources:

Forever Green EECO now enrolling for fall 2024 planting: This program offers ecosystem service incentive payments for Minnesota growers producing Kernza, hybrid winter rye, winter barley, and winter camelina. It also covers up to half the cost of production on the back-end in the event of a crop or market failure.

Integrating Crops & Livestock Infographic (Green Lands Blue Waters): This infographic is intended to illustrate a spectrum of options for farmers wishing to capture the benefits of integrating livestock into a cropping operation. Benefits include availability of a low-cost carbon-dense nutrient source from livestock waste, the potential to stack multiple enterprises, sharing equipment and partnering with neighbors, and reducing soil and nutrient loss from runoff.

Soil Builder Spotlight: Rachelle Meyer

Wholesome Family Farms is known for juggling enough enterprises to overwhelm even the most ambitious farmer. But Rachelle Meyer says a "three-legged stool" strategy keeps them balanced. This is the first episode from our 2024 Grazing School series. Check out LSP's recent [Ear to the Ground podcast with Rachelle Meyer: "Ignoring the Red Dress"](#)



Upcoming LSP Events

[\(see LSP's web page for more events & updates\)](#)

August 14, 11:30 am
[Life After Farming...What's Next for You & Your Land?](#) (part 1)
Zoom Webinar

August 22, 4:30 pm
[Austin Area Farmer Gathering](#),
Oakland, Minn.

September 1
[Final Deadline for LSP's 2024-2025 Farm Beginnings Class](#)
Hybrid Location

September 12, 11:30 am
[Life After Farming... What's Next for You and Your Land?](#) (part 2)
Zoom Webinar

September 14, 5:30 pm-9 pm
[LSP-COPAL Farm Event](#)
Austin, Minn.

Partner Events

August 6, 3 pm-5 pm, [Kernza Field Day](#), Cannon Falls, Minn. *Hosted by Clean River Partners*

August 9-10, [Wisconsin School of Grazing](#), Stratford, Wis. *Hosted by GrassWorks, the UW-Marshfield & Lancaster Agricultural Research Stations, the USDA-NRCS, & UW Extension*

August 21, 9 am - 12:30 pm, [Make Way for Pheasants](#), Lakefield, Minn. *Hosted by Minnesota Soil Health Coalition, Practical Farmers of Iowa, & Pheasants Forever*

Sept 6, 9 am-3 pm, [Soil Health Field Day at Tom Cotter's Farm](#)
Austin, Minn. *Hosted by Minnesota Soil Health Coalition*

Sept 9, 4 pm-6 pm, [Soil Health and Urban Farm Conservation Practices](#)
Minneapolis, Minn. *Hosted by Sustainable Farming Association and the NRCS*

September 27-28, [Wisconsin School of Grazing](#), Lancaster, Wis. *Hosted by GrassWorks, the UW-Marshfield & Lancaster Agricultural Research Stations, USDA-NRCS & UW Extension*

Check out LSP's latest [Ear to the Ground](#) Ear Dirt podcasts [here!](#)



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[LSP Soil Builders' Web Page](#)

[Main LSP Web Page](#)

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop healthy communities.

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